ACTIVITY A *Vocabulary*

List 1: Tell

1. **Britain**	*n.*	▶	(an island nation in Europe; Great Britain, England)
2. **empire**	*n.*	▶	(a group of countries ruled by one country)
3. **mercantile**	*adj.*	▶	(relating to merchants)
4. **mercantilism**	*n.*	▶	(an economic system developed in France and Britain that stressed government control of the economy and trade)

List 2: Strategy Practice

1. **exploration**	*n.*	▶	(the act of traveling to an unknown place to learn about the place)
2. **acquisition**	*n.*	▶	(something you get that becomes your own)
3. **territory**	*n.*	▶	(any large area of land)
4. **possession**	*n.*	▶	(a territory that is under the rule of a foreign country)
5. **culminate**	*v.*	▶	(to reach the final point)
6. **independence**	*n.*	▶	(the state of not being ruled by another country)
7. **autonomy**	*n.*	▶	(independence or freedom)
8. **individual**	*adj.*	▶	(single and distinct)
9. **prevalent**	*adj.*	▶	(widespread)
10. **deposit**	*n.*	▶	(a natural layer of minerals in the earth)

TALLY ____ VOCABULARY ____ 5 *Points*

List 3: Word Relatives

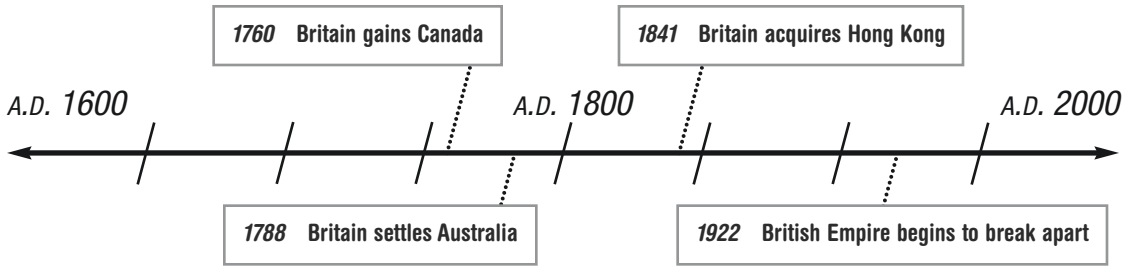
Family 1	**value**	*n.*	▶ (usefulness or importance)
	valuable	*adj.*	
	invaluable	*adj.*	
Family 2	**inhabit**	*v.*	▶ (to live in an area)
	inhabitant	*n.*	
	inhabitable	*adj.*	
Family 3	**imperial**	*adj.*	▶ (relating to an empire)
	imperialism	*n.*	
	imperialist	*n.*	
Family 4	**expand**	*v.*	▶ (to make larger)
	expansion	*n.*	
	expansive	*adj.*	
Family 5	**colony**	*n.*	▶ (a territory under the rule of another country)
	colonize	*v.*	
	colonization	*n.*	

ACTIVITY B *Spelling Dictation*

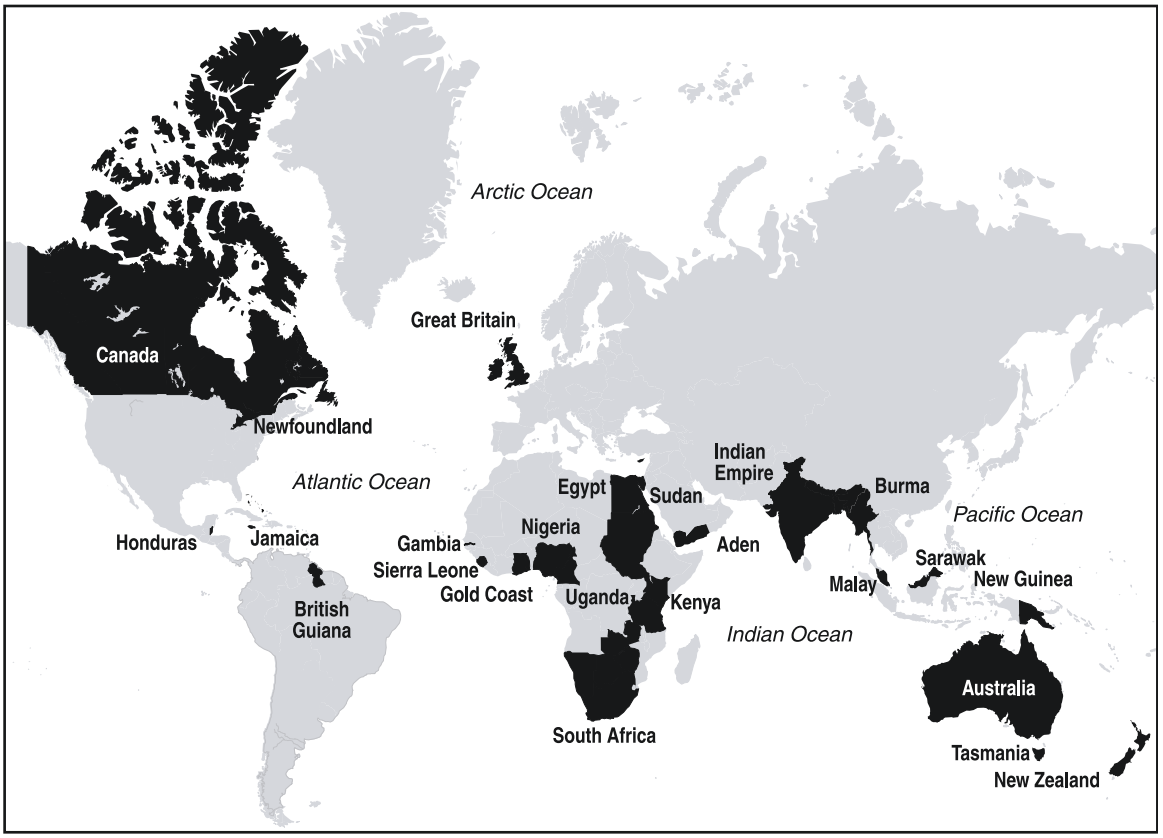
1. **value**	4. **imperial**
2. **valuable**	5. **imperialism**
3. **invaluable**	6. **imperialist**

SPELLING 6 Points

ACTIVITY C *Background Knowledge*



Like many European countries, Great Britain sought to expand its power and wealth by acquiring territories overseas. In this map, you can see the extent of Britain's territories (in black) as of 1914. Some of its largest possessions included Canada in North America, Australia, and India, on the continent of Asia. By examining the map, you will also notice some major possessions in Africa: Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. While these countries later became independent, they were all influenced by British culture.



Map of the British Empire, Early 1900s

ACTIVITY D *Passage Reading and Comprehension*

The British Empire

Britain, like many European nations, rushed to explore and expand during the 15th and 16th centuries. Explorers from England, France, Spain, and Portugal sailed the seas, discovering new lands and people. Of all the countries that sought new trade routes and new worlds, Britain alone turned its discoveries into a vast empire that would continue well into the 1900s. The growth of the British Empire had far-reaching effects on world politics and trade. (#1)

A Mercantile Empire

Initially, the expansion of the British Empire was based on *mercantilism*, or trade. Britain realized that its own land had inadequate resources. It needed to look to other lands for goods. The empire began with the exploration and acquisition of the eastern coast of North America and with the West Indies, a chain of islands stretching from the coast of Florida to South America. The British traded goods for slaves in the West Indies and on the western coast of Africa, where they also had settlements. These slaves were taken to southern colonies, such as Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina. The slaves supported the growing of cotton and tobacco, goods that were then shipped back to Britain, along with rum and sugar from the West Indies. (#2)

Meanwhile, the East India Company, a British company, had established a stronghold in India. The company set up valuable trading posts for spices and other goods. Eventually, the East India Company would come to rule India. That rule would eventually be turned over to the British government. (#3)

Expansion Continues

The British Empire continued to expand for trade reasons. But there were other reasons involved as well. Some of Britain's possessions in eastern Asia were acquired as a result of several wars fought in that region in the 19th century. Other countries were added for more unique reasons. Australia was colonized as a penal colony (a place to send criminals for punishment). But 30 years after the first convicts came to Australia, Britain opened it to free citizens and eventually stopped sending criminals there. South Africa, originally colonized by the Dutch, was taken over by the British to try to keep the French away. Once Britain had the land, they felt it was their duty to bring "civilized" British culture to the land's inhabitants. British culture was prevalent throughout

381 the world. By 1909, 20% of the land and 23% of the population of the world
397 belonged to the British Empire. (#4)

402 **Wealth Brings Power**

405 The British maintained and expanded their empire through trade and other
416 wealth-building. Many of their territories turned out to be rich in valuable
429 natural resources, adding to the wealth Britain would gain from colonies. West
441 Africa, for example, had rich deposits of gold and plenty of ivory. South Africa
455 had vast diamond mines, which are still the principal source of diamonds today.
468 The American colonies had furs, lumber, cotton, and tobacco. Britain was both
480 rich and powerful. (#5)

483 **The Decline of the Empire**

488 This vast, wealthy empire covered much of the earth. People said that the
501 sun never set on the British Empire. Why then does it no longer exist? The
516 primary reason is that the individual territories got tired of being under British
529 rule. Many of them wanted self-government. In some cases—as in Canada and
543 Australia—the British government granted that autonomy. But in other cases,
554 the colonists fought for independence, as they did in America and India.
566 Gradually, Britain's possessions dwindled. This decline of a great empire
576 culminated with the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997. Today, Britain
589 retains only a few small territories, which are too tiny to govern themselves. (#6)
602

ACTIVITY E *Fluency Building*

Cold Timing		**Practice 1**	
Practice 2		**Hot Timing**	

ACTIVITY F *Comprehension Questions—Multiple Choice and Short Answer*

Comprehension Strategy—Multiple Choice

Step 1: Read the item.
Step 2: Read all of the choices.
Step 3: Think about why each choice might be correct or incorrect. Check the article as needed.
Step 4: From the possible correct choices, select the best answer.

1. (Main Idea) **In the article, the statement "the sun never set on the British Empire" means that:**

a. the British Empire never experienced the darkness of night.
b. the glory of the British Empire was as bright as the sun.
c. the British Empire was so wonderful that nothing could dim its greatness.
d. the British Empire was large and worldwide.

2. (Cause and Effect) **What was the *major* reason Great Britain acquired territories overseas?**

a. Great Britain wanted to obtain slaves who could work in the colonies.
b. Great Britain wanted to bring its culture to other parts of the world.
c. Great Britain wanted to expand its wealth and power.
d. Great Britain wanted to trade in Asia.

3. (Main Idea) **If this article were given a new title, which would be best?**

a. *British Rule in India, South Africa, and Australia*
b. *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*
c. *Sunrise Over the British Empire*
d. *The Growth of Trade*

4. (Cause and Effect) **Why did many of the territories of the British Empire want freedom from British rule?**

a. They wanted to govern themselves.
b. They wanted lower taxes.
c. They wanted to select their own language and country name.
d. They wanted to trade with countries other than Great Britain.

MULTIPLE CHOICE COMPREHENSION 4

Comprehension Strategy—Short Answer

Step 1: Read the item.
Step 2: Turn the question into part of the answer and write it down.
Step 3: Think of the answer or locate the answer in the article.
Step 4: Complete your answer.

1. **Why was expansion of the British Empire initially based on trade?**
The British Empire was initially based on trade because Britain wanted the power, wealth, and resources that could come from possessions overseas.

2. **What are some of the resources Britain found in its territories that helped to make it a wealthy country?**
Some of the resources Britain found in its territories that helped to make it a wealthy country included gold, ivory, diamonds, furs, and lumber.

SHORT ANSWER COMPREHENSION 4/4 *Points*

ACTIVITY G *Expository Writing—Summary*

Writing Strategy—Summary

Step 1: **LIST** (List the details that are important enough to include in the summary.)
Step 2: **CROSS OUT** (Reread the details. Cross out any that you decide not to include.)
Step 3: **CONNECT** (Connect any details that could go into one sentence.)
Step 4: **NUMBER** (Number the details in a logical order.)
Step 5: **WRITE** (Write your summary.)
Step 6: **EDIT** (Revise and proofread your summary.)

Prompt: Write a summary of the information on the British Empire.

Planning Box
(topic) *The British Empire*
(detail) – *empire began with trade*
(detail) – *looked for resources in other lands*
② (detail) – *established colonies where the resources were*
③ (detail) – *acquired land through wars*
④ (detail) – *established British culture in the acquired lands*
⑤ (detail) – *resources made Britain wealthy*
⑥ (detail) – *empire declined*
⑦ (detail) – *colonies wanted independence*
⑧ (detail) – *some countries fought for it*
⑨ (detail) – *Britain granted independence to some countries*

Directions: Write your summary on a separate piece of paper.

Rubric—Summary	Student or Partner Rating	Teacher Rating
1. Did the author state the topic and the main idea in the first sentence?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
2. Did the author focus on important details?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
3. Did the author combine details in some of the sentences?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
4. Is the summary easy to understand?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
5. Did the author correctly spell words, particularly the words found in the article?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
6. Did the author use correct capitalization, capitalizing the first word in the sentence and proper names of people, places, and things?	Yes Fix up	Yes No
7. Did the author use correct punctuation, including a period at the end of each sentence?	Yes Fix up	Yes No

WRITING 7 *Points*